

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed within the statutory period for reply, which is scheduled to end on November 25, 2006.

Claims 15, 16, 23 and 30 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,138,406 to Dalton ("Dalton"). Claim 22 currently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalton. The Examiner has indicated that claims 24 and 26-29 are allowable, and that claims 17-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The present amendments are made only to place the claims in condition for allowance. In particular, each of claims 17 and 18 have been amended to be in independent form, and to include all limitations of the original base claims and any intervening claims. Original claims 15 and 16 have been canceled. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 17 and to remove redundancy in the claim, and claims 20 and 21 also are dependent on amended claim 17. Claims 22 and 23 have also been amended so as to now depend from amended claim 17. Claim 30 has been canceled. Applicants further wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 24 and 26-29. In view of the foregoing, applicants believe that independent claims 17 and 18, and claims 19-23 are also now in condition for allowance.

As previously indicated, the foregoing amendments are formal in nature, and have been made for the sole purpose of placing the claims in condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that such amendments be entered, and that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee due in connection with this Amendment to deposit Account No. 10-0750/IND38DIV/MJS.

Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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